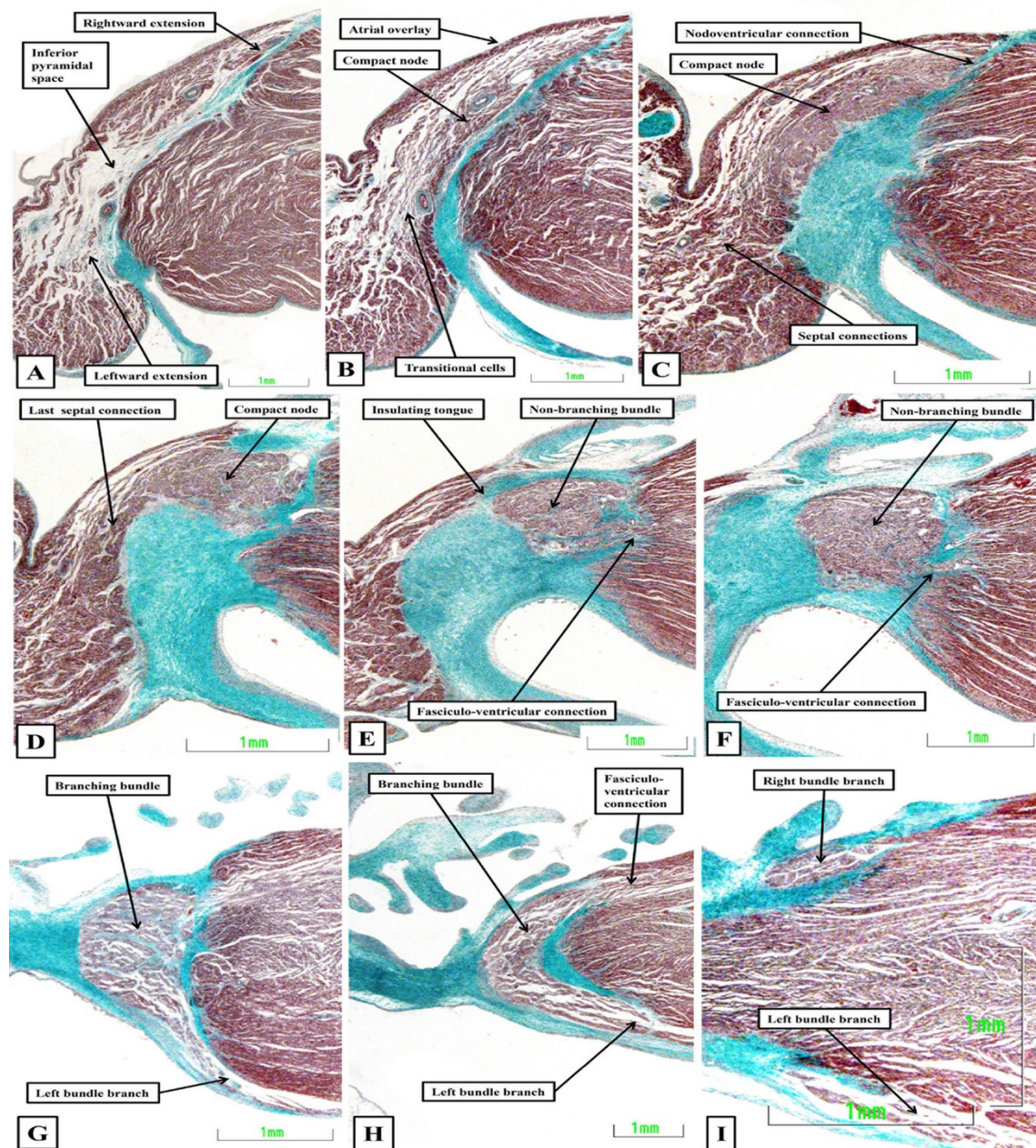


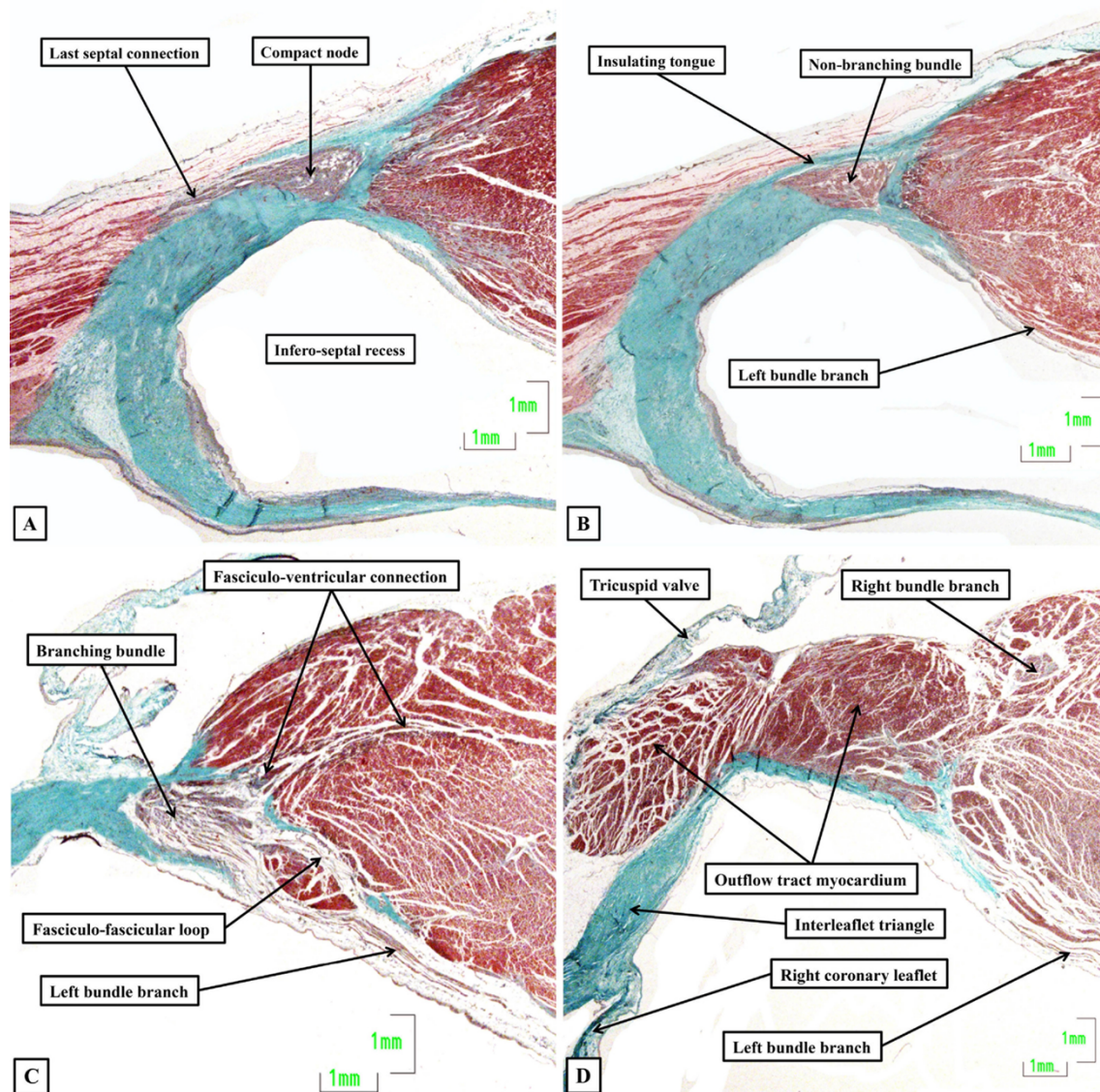
Supplementary Figure 1: Histological sections of the conduction axis during foetal stages of human development.



(A-I) The panels show the arrangement of the atrioventricular conduction axis as seen during the foetal stages of human development. Note the presence not only of fasciculo-ventricular pathways (panels E, F, and H) but also a nodo-ventricular connection (C).



Supplementary Figure 2: Histological sections showing the relationship of the aortic valve and conduction axis.



(A–D) The sections are from an adult human heart in which an extensive collar of outflow myocardium supports the aortic root, placing a greater distance between the axis and the leaflets of the aortic valve.

Supplementary Figure 3: Drawings by Tawara to show the atrioventricular conduction axis.



The panels are taken from the original monograph of Tawara, with the drawings reorientated to match the figures as provided for our review. Tawara illustrates clearly the difference between the extent of the non-branching bundle in the human heart (A) compared to the canine heart (B). Source: Tawara. 1906.<sup>4</sup>